the protection at the State level of the National Minorities Commission?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, this supplementary does not directly relate to the Home Ministry. But, I will say that this is not a question but a suggestion for action.

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Home Minister whether the Government's policy is to recruit people on the basis of religion, whether there are policies under which some people are consciously kept away and whether there is any discriminatory attitude by which some persons are kept away.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: There is no discrimination against anybody. No favouritism is shown to any community. This is the policy of the Government.

SHRI M.P.A. SAMAD SAMADANI: One major aspect of the main question is yet to be answered by the hon. Minister. The main question has an important part. That is about the recommendation of the *National Integration Council.*

This recommendation of the National Integration Council cannot be ignored by just stating that we are not for reservation and that we are not for recruitment. The National Integration Council is a very responsible body. It has, in its past record, great deliberations and recommendations regarding the unity of the nation. I think, there are cultural...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Bidding Exemption to Hydel Projects

*404. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new hydel projects will be exempted from competitive bidding; and

(b) whether this will apply to all hydel projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Power generation projects with an estimated cost exceeding Rs. 100 crores and promoted through the private sector after 18.2.1995 are required to follow the competitive bidding process. Competitive bidding is not mandatory for projects meant purely for captive use and for expansion projects. This policy applies to hydel projects also.

Ali Sena

*405. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the existence of Ali Sena as reported in 'The Pioneer', dated the 10th June, 1998;

(b) what are the aims and objects of Ali Sena; and

(c) whether Ali Sena is confined to a particular community/section, and if so, which ones?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Ali Sena (Full name Rashtriya Ali Sena) was reportedly floated in early part of 1996 to gain popularity among Muslims in view of the elections to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi.

Construction of Water Canal

*406. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a water canal on the Kutch border of India as a defence measure between India and Pakistan;

(b) when was it proposed by the defence authorities;

(c) whether Government are willing to consider the proposal or not;